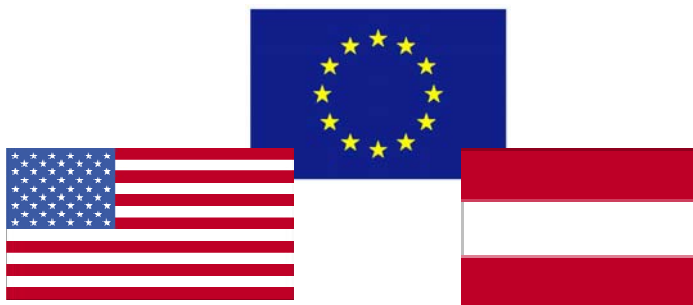


# EU SPOTLIGHT

No. 4, March 2006



Österreich 2006 • Präsidentschaft der Europäischen Union  
Austria 2006 • Presidency of the European Union  
Autriche 2006 • Présidence de l'Union européenne



- [U.S. Government Items](#)
- [CRS Reports for Congress](#)
- [Think Tank and Media Items](#)
- **Austrian Government Items**
  - [Event](#)
  - [Press Releases and Speeches](#)
- [Useful Links](#)
  - [Government pages](#)
  - [Selected U.S. media with EU section](#)
  - [Selected Austrian media with EU section](#)
  - [Additional sites](#)

## U.S. GOVERNMENT ITEMS

### Fraudulent Presidential Election in Belarus

Press Statement, Sean McCormack, Spokesman, Washington, D.C., March 20, 2006

The United States cannot accept as legitimate the election results announced yesterday by the Belarusian Central Election Commission declaring Aleksandr Lukashenka the winner in a landslide. As the OSCE preliminary report documents, the election "failed to meet OSCE commitments for democratic elections," and was characterized by "a disregard for the basic rights of freedom of assembly, association, and expression" as well by a "climate of intimidation and insecurity" and "highly problematic" vote count.

The United States congratulates the courageous Belarusian democrats who, against appalling electoral conditions and at great risk, have moved their country closer toward reclaiming its democratic rights. We support their call for a new election. We will stand with the people of Belarus and back their aspirations to take their rightful place among the world's democracies.

### U.S. Calls on Belarus To Respect Citizens' Rights as Vote Nears

#### **State Department condemns repression; Bush sends report to Congress**

Washington File, March 17, 2006

Washington -- Two days before the presidential election in Belarus, the United States March 17 urged the Belarusian government to respect the rights of its citizens and warned that "any use of force or violence against peaceful demonstrators will be met with a strong response."

State Department Deputy Spokesman Adam Ereli said the United States condemns statements by Belarusian Security Chief Stepan Sukhorenko equating street protests to terrorism. "These comments are outrageous and suggest that Belarusian authorities are intent on unjustified use of force and violence against their own people," Ereli said.

On March 16, President Bush transmitted to the U.S. Congress Report on *Belarus, the Last Dictatorship in Europe*, including Arms Sales and Leadership Assets, a report required by the 2004 Belarus Democracy Act.

### Belarus Elections

Press Statement, Tom Casey, Acting Spokesman, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., March 13, 2006

With less than a week to go before March 19 presidential elections in Belarus, the United States calls again on the Belarusian government to cease repression of political campaigns and civil society groups, and to respect the rights of Belarusian citizens. On March 7 and 8, police detained twelve aides to opposition candidate Aleksandr Milinkevich, including senior campaign officials Vintsuk Vyachorka and Anatoly Lebedko, allegedly for organizing unsanctioned rallies. These incidents come in the aftermath of the March 2 beating and detention of opposition candidate Aleksandr Kozulin, as well as a number of his supporters and journalists. Activists from the non-partisan civic group Partnership have been in detention since February 21. The latest interim report of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission details harassment of opposition campaigns, and civil society activists, including detentions and seizure of materials. We are also concerned about reports that a number of Belarusian and Ukrainian citizens were detained after a Milinkevich rally yesterday.

The United States shares these concerns and joins the European Union in its readiness to take further restrictive measures against the responsible individuals if the elections are not conducted in accord with Belarus's international obligations and its OSCE commitments.

### United States, European Union Sign Pact on Wine Trade

#### **Agreement addresses wine-making practices, labeling concerns**

Washington File, March 10, 2006

Washington -- The United States and the European Union (EU) signed an agreement on wine-making practices and the labeling of wine March 10 intended to facilitate bilateral trade in wine valued at \$2.8 billion annually, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The agreement was reached in September 2005, after 20 years of negotiations, with the United States agreeing to curb the use of European geographic names such as "chianti" or "burgundy" in return for the EU's recognition of certain wine-making techniques used by U.S. vintners. But the deal then had to be approved by the EU's agricultural ministers, an approval granted in December 2005. The March 10 signing brings the agreement into force.

The new agreement provides for mutual recognition of existing current wine-making practices and a consultative process for accepting new wine-making practices. One of the major differences between U.S. and European vintners, for example, is the common use by American winemakers of oak chips to achieve a flavor European wine makers achieve by aging their wines in oak barrels, according to the USTR. ...

**PRESS RELEASE** “United States and European Community Reach Agreement on Trade in Wine,” Office of the United States Trade Representative, March 10, 2006

### **Europe, U.S. Preparing Common Post-election Policies for Belarus**

#### **United States plans to remain engaged for the long term, State's Kramer says**

By Jeffrey Thomas, Washington File Staff Writer, March 10, 2006

Washington -- The run-up to the March 19 presidential election in Belarus is already deeply flawed, and the United States is making plans with European allies for common post-election policies, a senior State Department official said at a congressional hearing March 9. Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko “has already tilted the playing field to assure his re-election by using state officials and police to intimidate opposition candidates, nonpartisan activists and voters,” said the State Department’s David Kramer. “Stringent campaign rules have been applied only to the opposition,” said Kramer, the deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs. “The regime has used its domination of the state media to vilify government critics with impunity. Election commissions are stacked with government supporters.” ...

Kramer told the committee hearing that, in a unified approach with the European Union, the United States intends to remain engaged in Belarus for the long term despite what will likely prove to be unfree and unfair presidential elections. ...

**TESTIMONY** before the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Deputy Assistant Secretary David Kramer, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, March 9, 2006

### **Who'll Vote for Freedom? Elections in Belarus and Ukraine**

Remarks by Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C., March 10, 2006

Assistant Secretary Fried: ...

Let me review with you where I think we are, where the Administration thinks we are with respect to the upcoming elections in two very different countries. We're here to discuss Belarus and Ukraine. In Belarus, we have to deal with what is called the last dictatorship in Europe, the “last outpost of tyranny” as Secretary Rice has said, where we are seeing the kinds of abuses which are familiar to us from study and life in other repressive regimes....

We are working also with the European Union. I tried myself to go to Belarus on a joint mission with Robert Cooper, my European Union counterpart. We had intended to go together to deliver a message to the senior Belarus leadership about the need to act responsibly in the elections. The Belarusian authorities refused to receive us at the same time. They first said that my European colleague could go, but I could not. Then they said that I could go but my European colleague could not. In the end, we decided that we would go together or not at all. I regret that Belarus declined this opportunity for dialogue with the United States and Europe....



### **Transcript: State's DiCarlo Discusses U.S. Policy in South Central Europe**

#### **USINFO Webchat transcript: “The U.S. and Southeast Europe,” March 9-10**

Washington File, March 10, 2006

...  
ROSEMARY DICARLO: This is Deputy Assistant Secretary DiCarlo. Thank you for joining this discussion on Balkan issues today. I want to begin by letting you know that President Bush has directed a renewed effort to bring peace and security to the Balkans. The President's vision of a

Europe whole, free and at peace cannot be realized without the integration of countries of the region in Euro-Atlantic institutions.

The United States believes that the year 2006 is an important one for the people of the Balkans. Countries of the region have the opportunity to advance their objective to move closer to membership in Euro-Atlantic institutions. Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina launched negotiations on Stabilization and Association Agreements (SAA) with the European Union last fall. Albania is close to concluding an SAA. Croatia and Macedonia received EU candidate status last year. And Albania, Croatia and Macedonia are working on the necessary reforms to join NATO. ...

### **European Command Chief Touts Collaborative Strategy on Threats**

#### **General Jones outlines EUCOM strategy, requirements for Europe, Africa**

By Vince Crawley, Washington File Staff Writer, March 9, 2006

Washington -- The United States is trimming troop levels in Europe but will keep a significant presence to maintain NATO leadership while teaming with allies to solve long-term threats, the U.S. commander in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa says.

Experience has shown "that the most lasting solutions to existing threats will be found within collaborative and multifaceted approaches," Marine Corps General James Jones told the Senate and House Armed Services committees March 7 and March 8, respectively.

Today's threats include terrorism, radical fundamentalism, weapons proliferation, drug trafficking and uncontrolled illegal immigration, said Jones, who is chief of U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe. ...

### **U.S.-Europe Partnership Remains Crucial, Says Washington Scholar**

#### **Robert Lieber of Georgetown University addresses U.S.-European relations**

By Louise Fenner, Washington File Staff Writer, March 9, 2006

Washington -- America's partnership with Europe is crucial in dealing with the worldwide threat from fanatical terrorism and maintaining security and stability in many regions of the world, said a Washington scholar during a webcast March 7.

The United States does act unilaterally when cooperative measures with other countries or international institutions do not suffice, but U.S. policy-makers seek "as much multilateralism as possible," said Robert Lieber, professor of government and international affairs at Georgetown University in Washington.

"In that, America's partnership with Europe remains crucial," he said. And even though there have been disagreements on various issues, "at the end of the day, there was more that held them together" than pulls them apart, he said. ...

**WEBCAST TRANSCRIPT, "America's 21<sup>st</sup> Century European Strategy," March 7, 2006**

### **United States, European Union Focused on Darfur, Sudan**

#### **State's Zoellick prods United Nations on peacekeeping, strengthening AU force**

By Charles W. Corey, Washington File Staff Writer, March 9, 2006

Washington -- What drives the United States and the European Union (EU) to continually focus on Sudan is the condition of the people in Darfur -- and of the Sudanese in general -- said Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick.

Speaking at a March 8 joint press availability with EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana at the European Council in Brussels, Belgium, Zoellick said: "We have to keep that in mind as we talk about one organization or another organization -- you've got a couple of million people in camps. Incredible numbers have died, and the situation remains very dangerous and terrible."...

**STRENGTHENING PEACE EFFORTS IN SUDAN, Press Availability at European Council, with Robert B. Zoellick, Deputy Secretary; and Javier Solana, High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Brussels, Belgium, March 8, 2006**

## **Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2005**

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor/ U.S. Department of State, March 8, 2006

On March 8, 2006, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice delivered opening remarks on the release of the State Department's *2005 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*. Under Secretary Paula Dobriansky also gave remarks at the special briefing. Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Barry F. Lowenkron gave a statement and answered questions.

The report entitled "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices" is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with sections 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as amended, and section 504 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. The law provides that the Secretary of State shall transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, by February 25 "a full and complete report regarding the status of internationally recognized human rights, within the meaning of subsection (A) in countries that receive assistance under this part, and (B) in all other foreign countries which are members of the United Nations and which are not otherwise the subject of a human rights report under this Act." We have also included reports on several countries that do not fall into the categories established by these statutes and that thus are not covered by the congressional requirement.

### **CHAPTER ON EUROPE AND EURASIA, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2005**

## **The U.S.-European Relationship: Opportunities and Challenges**

Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs

Testimony before the House International Relations Committee Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, Washington, D.C., March 8, 2006

... The State Department, and particularly the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, is at work constantly with the 43 countries of Europe as well as the multilateral institutions of NATO, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Our Ambassadors, colleagues in the field, and members of the Bureau of European Affairs work as a team to advance President Bush's and Secretary Rice's vision of the United States working with Europe to promote freedom and prosperity in the world.

Our common effort seeks to extend the freedom and prosperity we enjoy beyond the borders of Europe, not just to provide for our own security but to improve the security and prosperity of the world as a whole, with which our future is linked. Second, we continue to work with our European partners to confront tyranny and resolve conflict in those places where it persists along Europe's frontiers of freedom, such as Belarus, the south Caucasus and the Balkans. To achieve these objectives, we seek to empower and strengthen the capabilities of key multilateral institutions like NATO and the OSCE, and to strengthen the U.S.-EU relationship.

We have differences with some in Europe on certain issues, including, famously, the decision to overthrow Saddam Hussein. But I have seen over the last year a shift in emphasis among Europeans from a focus on past differences to a commitment to work together to take on global challenges. ...

## **Gonzales Defends Detainee Treatment, Seeks Dialogue with Europe**

### **In London, Attorney General discusses U.S., European anti-terror laws**

By Vince Crawley, Washington File Staff Writer, March 7, 2006

Washington -- The United States and Europe must work together as partners to defeat terrorist networks, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said March 7 in London, where he defended U.S. treatment of detainees while discussing the sometimes deep disagreements over how to defend against militant groups.

Gonzales also said the United States welcomes a "difficult but necessary dialogue" on how to balance human rights with protecting human lives in the struggle against terrorism.

"Although these issues are complex, we must not let the consensus between the United States and Europe in fighting terrorism be weakened over differences in how we approach the fight," he said in a speech at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

A strong partnership between Europe and the United States is the only way to "disrupt militant conspiracies" and "give millions in a troubled region a hopeful alternative" to ideologies based on hatred and oppression, Gonzales said. ...



**PREPARED REMARKS by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, at the  
International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, England, March 7, 2006**

**Review of European Security Issues**

Washington File, March 3, 2006

Possible May 21 independence ballot for Montenegro; Kosovo status talks and KFOR restructuring; NATO "can deliver solutions" to global challenges; Caribbean is transit point for Europe-bound drugs; U.N. court to hear Bosnian genocide case; upcoming webchats on Southeast Europe and U.S. strategy in Europe

...

**Elections in Belarus and Ukraine**

**Press briefing with David J. Kramer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for  
European and Eurasian Affairs**

Foreign Press Center, Washington, D.C., March 2, 2006

...

Assistant Secretary Kramer: Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity to be here. I was in Minsk last week and had meetings with government officials as well as members of the opposition, people in the civil society community, students and also held a press briefing while I was there with members of the independent media in Belarus and went with the purpose to send the message that the United States as well as Europe are paying very close attention to what's going on in Belarus. Belarus has not been forgotten or neglected at all.



President Bush on Monday met with widows of two of those who have disappeared from Belarus. The Secretary of State also met with them. And the President's message was that the U.S. must work tirelessly to get rid of tyranny and there is no doubt that Belarus is run by a tyrant. The Secretary of State, as you know, has indicated that Belarus is, in fact, the last outpost of tyranny in Europe and we certainly will do all we can to support a free and fair election but also to remain engaged in Belarus for the long term, whether there is a democratic election in Belarus on March 19th or not. And certainly recent developments indicate that the scales are tipping heavily against such a free and fair election. We've been working very closely with our European allies on Belarus. I also stopped in Brussels before I went to Minsk. We've had a number of discussions and consultations with the EU in coordinating our efforts to do all that we can to promote a free and fair election process in Belarus. And as just mentioned, we also are focused on the situation in Ukraine which is a very different situation certainly than what we see unfolding in Belarus. ...

**International Narcotics Control Strategy Report**

Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs/ U.S. Department of State, March 1, 2006

The 2006 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) is an annual report by the Department of State to Congress prepared in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act. It describes the efforts of key countries to attack all aspects of the international drug trade in Calendar Year 2005. Volume I covers drug and chemical control activities. Volume II covers money laundering and financial crimes.

**EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA from Volume I: Drug and Chemical Control  
COUNTRY REPORTS from Volume II: Money Laundering and Financial Crimes**

**Detentions and Harassment in Run-Up to Belarus Elections**

Press Statement, Adam Ereli, Deputy Spokesman, U.S. Department of State,  
Washington, D.C., February 23, 2006

The United States condemns the continued detention, harassment and fining of Belarusian citizens for exercising their civil and political rights in the lead up to that country's Presidential elections on March 19.

Particularly troubling were the actions taken against the civil society group Partnership on February 21. Belarus officials detained the group's leader and deputy, raided its offices, and seized its documents and equipment.

These actions intensify already serious doubts about the Belarusian authorities willingness to conduct the upcoming elections in accordance with international standards and their OSCE obligations.

The United States calls on Belarus to respect the rights of its citizens, to release those detained and to cease harassing those promoting democratic elections. The United States urges the international community to take careful note of those in Belarus responsible for trampling the rights of their fellow citizens.

### **U.S., EU Ministers Reaffirm Positions on WTO Negotiations**

#### **USTR Portman says two sides begin narrowing differences over agriculture**

By Bruce Odessey, Washington File Staff Writer, February 22, 2006

Washington -- U.S. and European Union (EU) trade ministers have reaffirmed their commitment to successful conclusion of long-stalled World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations but have offered no new evidence that success is any closer.

U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman and EU Commissioner for Trade Peter Mandelson briefed reporters after their February 21-22 meetings in Washington, reiterating their positions of recent months.

Mandelson said the EU would not reconsider its agriculture proposal unless developing countries, especially emerging markets such as Brazil and India, make serious offers to cut industrial tariffs and open their markets to services.

Portman similarly said that all countries, including developing countries, need to make concessions to open their markets and that the negotiations on agriculture, industrial goods and services all must move together to make success possible in what is formally called the Doha Development Agenda, and less formally as the Doha Round. ...

**REMARKS** (pdf) by U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman and EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, Joint Media Availability, Washington, D.C., February 22, 2006

[\[back to top\]](#)

## **CRS REPORTS FOR CONGRESS**

### **Congressional Research Service/ Library of Congress**

#### **U.S.-European Union Trade Relations: Issues and Policy Challenges**

Updated January 26, 2006

Major U.S.-EU trade challenges can be grouped into five categories: (1) complying with WTO rulings; (2) resolving longstanding trade disputes involving aerospace production subsidies and beef hormones; (3) dealing with different public concerns over new technologies and new industries; (4) fostering cooperative competition policies; and (5) strengthening the multilateral trading system.

#### **U.S.-EU Cooperation Against Terrorism**

Updated January 24, 2006

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks gave new momentum to European Union (EU) initiatives to improve law enforcement cooperation against terrorism both among its 25 member states and with the United States. Washington has largely welcomed these efforts, recognizing that they may help root out terrorist cells and prevent future attacks. However, the United States and the EU continue to face several challenges as they seek to promote closer cooperation in the police, judicial, and border control fields. This report will be updated as needed.

#### **The United States and Europe: Possible Options for U.S. Policy**

Updated January 23, 2006

This report assesses the present state of the U.S.-European relationship and the reasons for current frictions. To stimulate debate and for the purposes of analysis, it also offers a spectrum of

possible options for U.S. policymakers in considering the future shape of the political and strategic dimensions of the transatlantic partnership.

### [EU-U.S. Economic Ties: Framework, Scope, and Magnitude](#)

Updated January 17, 2006

*Updated*

U.S. and EU policymakers will continually face the task of how to manage the increasingly complex bilateral economic relationship in ways that maximize benefits and keep frictions to a minimum. For Members of Congress it means weighing the benefits of greater economic integration against the costs to constituents in the context of overall U.S. national interests.

### [NATO and the European Union](#)

Updated January 3, 2006

This report addresses several questions central to the debate over European security and the future of the broader transatlantic relationship.

### [The United States and Europe: Current Issues](#)

Updated December 28, 2005

The United States and Europe share a long and intertwined history. Despite the end of the Cold War, both sides of the Atlantic continue to face a common set of international concerns, have few other comparable partners, and share a huge economic relationship. Nevertheless, numerous foreign policy and trade conflicts have seriously challenged U.S.-European relations in recent years. This report examines the current state of the transatlantic relationship and key issues in Europe and beyond that have implications for U.S. interests.

### [European Union Enlargement](#)

Updated December 27, 2005

On May 1, 2004, 10 states joined the European Union (EU), enlarging the Union to 25 members. The EU views the enlargement process as a historic opportunity to promote stability and prosperity in Europe. In addition to the 10 new members (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia), Bulgaria and Romania hope to accede to the EU in 2007. Turkey and Croatia began accession negotiations in October 2005. Macedonia was named as a candidate for EU membership in December 2005.

### [The European Union in 2006 and Beyond](#)

Updated December 27, 2005

The European Union (EU) has experienced significant changes over the last few years. The EU has enlarged from 15 to 25 members and has been working to implement a new constitutional treaty to institute internal reforms and further political integration. The EU has also taken steps toward developing a common foreign policy and defense arm. This report describes the current status of the EU's constitutional treaty, EU enlargement, the EU's evolving foreign and defense policies, and possible implications for U.S.-EU relations.

### [The European Union: Questions and Answers](#)

Updated December 27, 2005

This report provides answers to key questions related to the European Union (EU). It describes the EU's evolution, its governing institutions, trade policy, and efforts to forge common foreign and defense policies. The report also addresses the EU-U.S. and EU-NATO relationships.

### [The European Union's Constitution](#)

Updated December 27, 2005

In June 2004, the European Union (EU) concluded work on a constitutional treaty that contains changes to the EU's governing institutions and decision-making processes. Commonly referred to as the "constitution," this new treaty aims to institute internal reforms to enable a larger EU to operate effectively and prevent gridlock, but it must be ratified by all member states to enter into force. The future of the EU's constitution, however, has been thrown in doubt after French and Dutch voters rejected it in separate referenda in May and June 2005. This report provides background information on the constitution, its key provisions, the current crisis, and possible implications for U.S.-EU relations.



## [The European Parliament](#)

Updated April 6, 2005

The 732-member, directly-elected European Parliament (EP) is a key institution of the 25-member European Union (EU). Once limited to being a consultative assembly, the EP has accumulated more power over time. Currently, it plays a role in the EU's legislative and budgeting processes, and exercises general supervision over other EU bodies. The EP continues to face several challenges, however, especially in relation to its democratic legitimacy and operational costs. The most recent EP elections were held in June 2004.

[\[back to top\]](#)

## THINK TANK AND MEDIA ITEMS

(If you are interested in receiving any of the articles listed below, please contact [arc@usembassy.at](mailto:arc@usembassy.at))

### The Transatlantic Divide over Democracy Promotion

By Jeffrey Kopstein, *The Washington Quarterly*, Spring 2006

In his January 2005 inaugural speech, President George W. Bush placed democracy promotion at the center of his second-term agenda. Yet, with no budget or strategy offered in the days or weeks that followed, Europeans grew increasingly cynical. Given the shifting rationales for the war in Iraq emanating from the White House, it would be understandable if European leaders and the broader European public remained highly suspicious of democracy promotion, interpreting it as a repackaged commitment to the unilateral use of force as well as justification for a war and occupation that were not going as smoothly as expected. Immediately following the speech, op-eds appearing in newspapers across the continent asked skeptically, "First, they say it was Al Qaeda, then weapons of mass destruction, and now the purpose of the war is democracy?" Europeans have argued that, even if sincere, the United States has a notoriously short attention span. Democracy promotion may be the flavor of the month, but how long could this infatuation last?

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

### [The Mohammed Cartoons: European Society and Freedom of the Press](#) (pdf)

A Center on the United States and Europe Briefing

Co-Sponsored by the Heinrich Böll Foundation

February 15, 2006

The violence that followed the publication of cartoons depicting the prophet Mohammed in several European newspapers has raised questions about European models of social integration and underscored that their debates at home can have dramatic implications abroad. The story has also raised questions about freedom of the press and self-censorship in the media. In a world threatened by a clash of civilizations, does freedom of the press include the right to offend the most sacred beliefs of others? In a time of fundamentalist terrorism, can we allow violence and the threat of violence to determine the content of our speech?

To examine these issues, the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution and the Heinrich Böll Foundation hosted a panel on The Mohammed Cartoons: European Society and Freedom of the Press. Commentary was provided by Ammar Abdulhamid, Visiting Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy; Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff, *Die Zeit*; David Ignatius, *The Washington Post*; and Claus Christian Malzahn, *Der Spiegel*. The briefing was moderated by Philip Gordon, Director of the Center on the United States and Europe.

### The European Union as a Security Actor: Security Provision Through Enlargement

By Boyka Stefanova, *World Affairs*, Fall 2005

The author, assistant professor of Political Science at the University of Texas, discusses the question of whether regional integration can solve security issues, and presents a case study of the European Union's post-Cold War eastward expansion to illustrate its role as an independent security actor. Through successive rounds of enlargement in the 1990s, Stefanova traces the EU's

centralization of authority through conditions of membership, progressive institutionalization of political and economic interdependencies, and increasing military capacity for direct intervention, both independently and jointly with NATO and OSCE. Continued eastward enlargement, Stefanova concludes, though bedeviled by resource relocations, institutional restructuring, and the divisive question of "where Europe ends," will continue to enhance regional security well beyond the status of the EU's actual military capabilities.

[\[back to top\]](#)

## AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT ITEMS

### Event

#### [Conference "Europe begins at home"](#)

St. Pölten, April 18-19, 2006

The Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU is co-organising the European Conference on Subsidiarity 2006 with the Austrian parliament and the Bundesland Lower Austria on 18 and 19 April 2006 in St. Pölten. At this conference entitled "Europe begins at home", representatives of the EU Member States, the European Commission, the European Parliament and other EU institutions together with experts will discuss the subsidiarity principle and the proportionality principle as well as better regulation in the framework of the European Union. The discussions will focus on the following themes:

- Citizen-based policies: the contribution of the regions and the local authorities
- Subsidiarity and proportionality: the role of parliaments
- Subsidiarity and better regulation

[\[back to top\]](#)

### Press Releases and Speeches

(for a complete listing of press releases and speeches please see:

<http://www.eu2006.at/en/index.html>)

#### [Plassnik: Human Rights Council – effective UN body for the protection of human rights worldwide](#)

March 16, 2006

"Through its decision to set up a Human Rights Council, the United Nations has sent an important signal to the victims of human rights violations. The Human Rights Council has the potential to prevent tragedies such as Srebrenica and Rwanda in future", Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik declared after the vote in the UN General Assembly.

"The clear result of the vote in New York is a great success for the European Union. We gave our firm backing to an effective, credible UN body for the protection of human rights from day one", was how Foreign Minister Plassnik, the current President of the Council of the EU, commented yesterday's decision in New York. The Human Rights Council's mandate does not fulfil all our wishes, but it is a considerable improvement over the existing UN Commission on Human Rights." ...

#### [Bartenstein: EU and Russia need a new-style energy partnership](#)

Main topics at the G8 meeting in Moscow were energy efficiency and the Energy

Charter, March 16, 2006

Martin Bartenstein, President of the EU Energy Council and Minister of Economics and Labour, advocated a "new-style energy partnership" between the European Union and the Russian Federation this Thursday at the G8 Energy Ministers Conference in Moscow: "It is important in this connection for foreign investors to have access to Russia, just as Russia's Gazprom already has access to Europe's capital and energy markets. The EU certainly has no problems with such reciprocity".

Bartenstein also sees a special need for action on Russia's part to increase energy efficiency: according to the latest estimates of the IEA, nearly a third of the volume of Russia's gas exports is lost each year within the country through inefficiency, while a direct comparison shows Austria's energy efficiency to be nearly ten times that of Russia. ...

### **Plassnik: "Salzburg shows the European Union is making a difference in the Balkans"**

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik presents the results of the Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers in Salzburg to the European Parliament plenary, March 15, 2006

"The Salzburg Declaration was a ringing endorsement of the Western Balkan countries' European perspective. This is particularly significant at a time when there is so much talk of enlargement fatigue. In Salzburg we sent a twin signal of encouragement — to the peoples in the Western Balkan countries that the often arduous road to Europe is worthwhile, and to the citizens of our Member States that the EU is able to find forward-looking solutions even to difficult questions." These were the opening words of Foreign Minister Plassnik's report on the results of the Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers in Salzburg. ...

### **Statement by the Presidency on Recent Events in Jericho and Gaza**

March 15, 2006

Vienna, 15 March 2006 - The Presidency is gravely concerned at the events that took place on 14 March 2006 in the West Bank, especially in Jericho, and in Gaza.

The Presidency stresses the need to take the appropriate measures to restore calm and order. It calls upon Israel and the Palestinian Authority to exercise restraint and to weight carefully the impact of their actions in order to prevent further escalation.

The Presidency strongly condemns the taking of hostages and calls upon the Palestinian Authority to ensure the protection of foreign nationals and property.

The Presidency remains in close contact with all concerned parties in order to monitor the situation closely.

The Presidency recalls that the European Union remains committed to support the Palestinian people and underlines the importance of a peaceful environment.

### **State Secretary Hans Winkler at the European Parliament plenary in Strasbourg**

March 15, 2006

"Europe is plainly facing new challenges, to which it must respond. The growing pressure of competition from beyond its borders, both economic and technological, the ageing population, the inexorable rise in energy prices and the need to ensure a secure energy supply are but a few examples", State Secretary Hans Winkler said in his speech to the European Parliament plenary in Strasbourg, in which he gave a statement on the key priorities for the spring summit of the European Council.

"We cannot halt the march of globalisation. What we can do, however, is create the conditions that will enable us to take up the challenge and adapt to globalisation. We must place the emphasis on greater individual responsibility and a stronger sense of specific priority measures", Winkler declared. ...

### **Plassnik: "More individual responsibility needed on the way to Europe"**

Meeting between Bosnia and Herzegovina's Prime Minister Adrian Terzic and Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, March 14, 2006

The Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Adrian Terzic, met Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik on Tuesday afternoon. Prime Minister Terzic will be attending a meeting on Wednesday of the Steering Committee set up under the Dayton Peace Accord. The meeting has been organised by the EU Presidency in Vienna.

In addition to the current political situation and constitutional reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the focus of the talks with Foreign Minister Plassnik was the process of moving towards EU accession and the informal meeting of Foreign Ministers held in Salzburg last weekend. ...

### Plassnik: Those ready for democracy must also be ready to embrace non-violence

President Mahmoud Abbas received by Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, March 14, 2006

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik met the President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas today, Tuesday. Their meeting is a continuation of the Austrian Presidency's intensive contacts with political leaders in the region, including the Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and the Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of violence in Gaza and the West Bank. Foreign Minister Plassnik explicitly condemned the violent attacks on facilities of the EU and its Member States, and drew attention to the local authorities' responsibility to provide security in all circumstances. ...

### Federal Chancellor Schüssel: "EU supports Palestine, but must have certain guarantees"

March 14, 2006

Federal Chancellor Schüssel, President of the Council of the EU, today received the President of the Palestinian Authority on an official working visit to Vienna. The discussions centred on the situation in Palestine and the Middle East.

"The European Union wishes to help the Palestinian people. We have confidence in the President, and the Palestinian people are our friends. We respect the result of the elections of 25 January and recognise Hamas' victory. However, every democratically legitimised government must observe certain principles in order to gain international respect. It is important for the European Union and Austria to be able to work together with the Palestinian people on the basis of certain principles. Our message is that mutual recognition on the part of Israel and Palestine is indispensable. ...

### Council Declaration at the occasion of the European Day of victims of terrorism, 11 March 2006

March 11, 2006

On the occasion of the second European Day of victims of terrorism, held on 11 March 2006 the Council of the European Union:

- Expresses its deepest solidarity with all victims of terrorist attacks in Europe and elsewhere in the world, with their families and loved ones. Europe stands united on this day of remembrance. We shall continue to preserve and honour the memory of the dead. We shall maintain and reinforce our support to the victims of terrorism and their families. Their memory inspires us in our quest for justice.
- Exhorts all citizens and their representatives to make this European day of victims of terrorism a day of remembrance and also a day of civic and democratic debate on securing freedom. Those who try to strike at our societies through terror strive in vain. Our countries, our citizens and our Union are bound by common values, principles and freedoms; democracy, human rights, the rule of law and solidarity. No act or campaign of terrorism will be allowed to undermine them.
- Recalls that terrorism strikes victims all around the globe and that the human suffering caused by terrorism knows no boundaries. From America to the Middle East, from Asia to Africa and Europe, there is a single pain, a single resolve. Every human being on this planet is today a potential victim of terrorism. Terrorism spares no one, whatever one's age, gender, culture, beliefs or nationality. Just as the rejection of terrorism is universal, so must be our global action to defeat it.

### Salzburg EU/Western Balkans Joint Press Statement

March 11, 2006

1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the European Union, the acceding states, the candidate states, the potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans, the Secretary General of the Council/High Representative, and the European Commissioner for Enlargement met in Salzburg at the occasion of the informal Foreign Ministers' meeting. The High Representative/EU Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the SRSG for Kosovo, and the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe were also present.
2. The participants reaffirmed their full support for the agenda set out at the Thessaloniki summit in 2003, as well as for the Stabilisation and Association Process which will remain the framework for the European course of the Western Balkan countries. In this respect, the EU confirms that the future of the Western Balkans lies in the European Union. The EU recalled that a debate on the enlargement strategy is due in 2006 as set out by the Council conclusions of 12 December 2005.

The EU also notes that its absorption capacity has to be taken into account. The participants agreed that each country's progress towards the EU continues to depend on individual merits in meeting the conditions and requirements set forth in the Copenhagen criteria and in the Stabilisation and Association Process, including full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

...

### **Plassnik: European unification incomplete without the Balkans**

Second day of Foreign Ministers' meeting devoted to the Western Balkans, March 11, 2006

"European unification is incomplete without the Balkans. The countries of the region are potential accession candidates. They have a clear European perspective. The Austrian Presidency of the Council is building on this conviction", Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, current President of the Council, stressed at the press conference closing the informal meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Salzburg.

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to the countries of the Western Balkans. The Foreign Ministers of the EU Member States and of the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania were joined in the discussions by their counterparts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia-Montenegro and Turkey. The talks focused on trade, combating organised crime, travel facilitation and how to communicate the European perspective credibly, in particular to young people in the region. At the end of their meeting, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all 33 participating countries adopted a joint statement on EU/Western Balkans relations. ...

### **Plassnik: Our message to the future Palestinian government has not changed**

Middle East and Iran the focus on the first day of the Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers, March 10, 2006

The two-day Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers chaired by Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik began in Salzburg on Friday, 10 March. The discussions on the first day centred on the situation in the Middle East and Iran, the dialogue of cultures and religions and the forthcoming elections in Ukraine and Belarus.

"Following the election victory of Hamas we face a new and difficult situation on the ground in the Middle East, which calls for careful evaluation and monitoring. Business as usual is not an option in these circumstances; when Hamas won the elections, we made our message very clear both in the European Union and within the international community. This message has not changed", Minister Plassnik stated. ...

### **Federal Chancellor Schüssel: International harmony on the Iran issue**

March 9, 2006

At its meeting today, the Austrian Government discussed mainly EU matters and the preparation for the forthcoming EU Summit in Brussels. ...

At the press session, the Chancellor also commented on the dispute concerning Iran's nuclear research. He stressed the international harmony on this issue. Schüssel: "We do not want research activities of this kind to take place in Iran. The step from there to the development of nuclear weapons would be very small. Confidence is lacking in this respect. We want to enable Iran to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We want enrichment to take place in Russia, and at the same time we want a voluntary renunciation of all research activities that can lead to the development of nuclear weapons. On this issue there is a clear, common position. The USA, Russia, China and Europe are in agreement on this." ...

### **Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean States in Vienna**

March 7, 2006

Vienna, 7 March 2006 - On 6 and 7 March, the eighth high-level meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean States was held in Vienna.

150 delegates from over 50 countries and organisations were represented at the event in order to drive forward cooperation on international drugs control. These regions are affected by the problems posed by drugs: in Latin America, coca production is particularly widespread, the



Caribbean States are increasingly adversely affected as transit countries, and Europe is the largest outlet for illegal drugs.

Cooperation between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean is based on the rationale of joint responsibility in the international fight against drugs. ...

### **Platter: Security and defence policy a future pillar of the EU**

EU Defence Ministers meet in Innsbruck, March 6, 2006

"The security and defence policy is a unifying pillar for the future of the European Union", Council President Günther Platter said today, Monday, at the informal meeting of defence ministers in Innsbruck. "We have been working today to ensure that this motor of the EU will continue to function smoothly in future as well." The themes of Monday's two sessions were civil-military interaction and the EU operations.

"A mission which sows the seeds of peace and stability in the long term includes both civil and military actors", Platter stressed. The coordinated deployment of civil and military instruments in the area of the European Security and Defence Policy in particular was therefore crucial. Civil-military coordination was a priority of the three successive presidencies of the UK, Austria and Finland. ...

### **Plassnik: "The Balkans region must not be left on the political sidelines"**

Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis on visit to Vienna, March 4, 2006

Vienna, 4 March 2006 - Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik had a meeting with her Greek counterpart, Dora Bakoyannis, in Vienna on Saturday, 4 March. The talks centred on the priorities of the EU Presidency, in particular the Western Balkans and the debate on the future of Europe. ...

Plassnik made reference to the numerous activities launched by the Austrian Presidency together with the countries of the Western Balkans, for instance in the field of security policy, education policy and strengthening the rule of law. "We must raise awareness of the need to avoid a zone of insecurity and instability between Austria, Italy and Greece. Our Western Balkans policy is a part of our security policy. One of the tasks we have set for the meeting of foreign ministers next week in Salzburg is to bring this to the attention of the European public. The Balkans region must not be left on the political sidelines", Plassnik continued. ...

### **Plassnik: "Support for a stable, self-confident and successful Ukraine"**

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik with EU Troika in Kiev/Ukraine, March 3, 2006

Kiev, 3 March 2006 - On the occasion of the talks between the EU troika and the Ukraine Minister for Foreign Affairs Ursula Plassnik today met her counterpart Boris Tarasjuk and the Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko in Kiev.

"The EU is a friend, partner and close neighbour of the Ukraine and will remain so. The Ukraine can rely upon our support in its efforts to establish an open, democratic and prosperous society. The European Neighbourhood Policy gives us the necessary tools to make our partnership tangible and fill it with life. We want a stable, self-confident and successful Ukraine", declared Plassnik after the talks. ...

### **Presidency press statement EU/Russia human rights consultations**

EU and Russia hold third round of human rights consultations, March 3, 2006

The European Union and Russia today held their third formal consultations on human rights. The aim of these consultations is to discuss issues related to human rights and fundamental freedoms. EU and Russia decided to hold such expert consultations at the Hague Summit in November 2004, while continuing to discuss human rights issues at all levels.

Meeting in Vienna, senior officials from the EU and Russia discussed the internal human rights situation in Russia and the European Union, as well as co-operation on human rights in international fora. The consultations were preceded yesterday by a visit of the two parties to the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, and a meeting of the EU delegation with Russian and international NGOs who brought a range of human rights concerns to the attention of the EU. ...

### **Plassnik: "Two-state solution in the Middle East remains our common goal"**

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni on visit to Vienna, March 1, 2006

Vienna, 1 March 2006 - Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik had a meeting with the Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni in Vienna today in her capacity as President of the Council of the EU. Their discussions centred on the further development of the Middle East peace process following the elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council.

"That Tzipi Livni's first visit to Europe should be to Vienna is by no means a foregone conclusion. This visit demonstrates the close relations built on trust between the EU and Israel. It is also an expression of our need to keep each other informed about international developments", Foreign Minister Plassnik declared. She said that Europe had always appreciated Israel as a partner....

### **Council adopts regulation establishing financial support for the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community**

Clear, tangible benefit for the Turkish Cypriot community, February 27, 2006

Brussels, 27 February 2006 – The General Affairs Council today adopted the regulation establishing financial support for the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community which has been under negotiation since July 2004.

This represents a breakthrough in a complex dossier after more than one and a half years of negotiations and several failed attempts by previous presidencies. The decision releases resources amounting to 139 million euros for the Turkish Cypriot community, which will be used to improve the economy of the northern part of the island. ...

### **Plassnik: "Our objective is to conclude the negotiations on the Financial Perspective on schedule"**

State of negotiations theme of the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels, February 27, 2006

At today's meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels chaired by Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, the discussions centred on the preparation of the spring European Council and the negotiations with the European Parliament on the Financial Perspective.

Council President Plassnik informed her colleagues about the state of the negotiations with the European Parliament and the European Commission on a new interinstitutional agreement on the Financial Perspective. In these negotiations, the Council Presidency is represented by Federal Minister Grasser. "The second political 'trilogue' on 21 February between the three institutions was the first opportunity for a substantive discussion of the new interinstitutional agreement. The talks are proceeding constructively and the atmosphere is good. All the institutions involved are aware of what is at stake. It is in our common interest to conclude the negotiations on schedule in April", Plassnik said. ...

### **Plassnik: "Traditionally close, multi-faceted relations with Canada"**

EU Foreign Ministers have informal meeting with the Canadian Foreign Minister MacKay, February 27, 2006

In the run-up to the General Affairs and External Relations Council, Federal Minister Plassnik and several EU Foreign Ministers had an informal meeting with the Canadian Foreign Minister Peter Gordon MacKay. The meeting was an opportunity for a first exchange of views with the newly appointed Canadian Foreign Minister on current issues and the state of relations between the EU and Canada.

Both sides stressed the traditionally close, multi-faceted nature of EU-Canada relations. In multilateral forums in particular, the EU and Canada work together successfully, e.g. in the Human Security Network, in environmental protection and on small arms and light weapons. ...

### **Plassnik: "Broad consensus in the EU on current foreign policy issues"**

Iraq, Middle East and cartoon controversy topics at the External Affairs Council, February 27, 2006

Brussels, 27 February 2006 - Foreign Minister Plassnik discussed with her EU Foreign Minister colleagues on Monday the situation in Iraq following the publication of the results of the parliamentary elections in December 2005 and the bombing of the Imam Ali-Hadi Mosque in Samarra.

"The attack on the Shiite holy shrine in Samarra and the violent clashes between Shias and Sunnis that followed have come at an extremely critical point in the political process in Iraq. They are

designed to undermine the current efforts to unite the different ethnic and religious groups in Iraq in a government of national unity; but the terrorists must not be allowed to have their way", Plassnik said. ...

### **Plassnik: "Working together to stabilise the Balkans"**

EU Foreign Ministers meeting and Troika with Serbia and Montenegro in Brussels, February 27, 2006

Brussels, 27 February 2006 - Foreign Minister Plassnik also discussed the subject of the Western Balkans with her EU Foreign Minister colleagues today in Brussels. Their discussions centred on the forthcoming independence referendum in Montenegro, the talks on the future status of Kosovo and cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. ...

### **Schüssel: "EU Presidency supports UN-sponsored talks between Cyprus and Turkey"**

February 22, 2006

Federal Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel, the current President of the Council of the EU, had a meeting Tuesday with the Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos in the Federal Chancellery. The talks focused on the priorities of the Presidency programme and topical issues relating to Cypriot-Turkish relations.

"The Austrian Presidency is doing everything in its power to support the current UN-sponsored process", the Chancellor said. "We know the situation is very complex and difficult and that it will not be easy to solve this conflict", he continued. ...

### **Plassnik: "Europe needs the cooperation of all parliaments"**

Foreign Minister Plassnik at the meeting of the 25 national EU Committee Chairs in Vienna, February 20, 2006

At Monday's meeting of the chairs of the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees (COSAC) in Vienna, Foreign Minister Plassnik gave an overview of the reflection phase and the debate on the EU constitution from the point of view of the Presidency. She emphasised the significance the Austrian Presidency attaches to strengthening citizens' confidence in the European project. "This confidence-building will succeed only through tangible progress with specific projects. The national parliaments and the European Parliament are our key partners in this task", stated the Foreign Minister. ...

### **Bartenstein: New Internet portal for EU-wide job exchange has come at exactly the right time**

Press conference in Brussels at the launch of the "European Year of Workers' Mobility", February 20, 2006

Minister for Economics and Labour Martin Bartenstein, current President of the EU Employment Council, congratulated the European Commission in Brussels on the relaunch of the "EURES" Internet platform: "This relaunch has come at exactly the right time. Information on over one million job vacancies throughout the whole European Union is available at the click of a mouse. I hope that many job seekers will use the service, for the 18 million unemployed we currently have in the EU are simply far too many." Bartenstein was taking part in the conference in Brussels on Monday on the occasion of the launch of the European Year of Workers' Mobility on the theme "Workers' Mobility: a right, an option, an opportunity?" ...

### **Bartenstein: Succeeding in the globalised economy with an innovative labour market policy**

International conference in Vienna under the Austrian EU Presidency, February 17, 2006

"Globalisation of the economy has presented labour market policy with new challenges that can only be met with new and innovative ideas," declared Council President and Minister for Economics and Labour Martin Bartenstein at a press conference in the Vienna Hofburg on Friday following the international conference on this topic, jointly hosted by the Austrian EU Presidency and the European Commission. "In the present situation, we need a much greater measure of good, efficient labour market policy" he continued, adding that "We must move away from the previous status of a supposed job security that in fact never really existed and toward the

more modern form of employment security. We must increase flexibility in the labour market and at the same time give workers the assurance that they will be employed. A good labour market policy will assure this so-called Flexicurity.” ...

### Key Messages of Foreign Minister Plassnik

Informal meeting of Foreign Ministers Ursula Plassnik and Per Stig Møller with leading representatives of Islam, Vienna, February 16, 2006

- Freedom of expression is a fundamental right and a basic component of a democratic society. At the same time, due respect must be accorded to religious beliefs and convictions. Freedom of expression and respect for revered values do not contradict but complement one another.
- Acts of violence such as the recent attacks on European embassies and offices must not be accepted under any circumstances.
- The events of the last days have demonstrated that a lack of dialogue unfortunately exists between the Western and Islamic worlds. This presents both sides with a challenge. We must not leave the floor to extremists. *"There is a danger that the essential dialogue between cultures and societies is being reduced to an angry exchange between the fringes, with each side assuming that extremists speak for the other side as a whole and - in turn - allowing its own extremists to frame its own hostile response."* (UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 10 February 2006). ...

[\[back to top\]](#)

## USEFUL LINKS

### Government pages

- **U.S. – EU/ U.S. Embassy website**  
[http://www.usembassy.at/en/policy/us\\_eu.htm](http://www.usembassy.at/en/policy/us_eu.htm)
- **Western Europe/ Bureau of International Information Programs**  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe\\_eurasia/us\\_eu\\_relations.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe_eurasia/us_eu_relations.html)
- **Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs/ U.S. Department of State**  
<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/>  
The Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, headed by Assistant Secretary Daniel Fried, implements U.S. foreign policy in Europe and Eurasia. The Bureau promotes U.S. interests in the region on issues such as national security, NATO enlargement, coordination with the European Union and other regional organizations, support for democracy, human rights, civil society, economic prosperity, the war on terrorism, and nonproliferation.
  - **European Union** - <http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rt/eu/>
- **Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU** -  
<http://www.eu2006.at/en/index.html>
- **The United States Mission to the European Union** -  
<http://useu.usmission.gov/>
- **Delegation of the European Commission to the USA** -  
<http://www.eurunion.org/>
- **Europa – Gateway to the European Union**  
[http://europa.eu.int/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/index_en.htm)
- **Eurobarometer**  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm)

[\[back to top\]](#)

## Selected U.S. media with EU section

- **The Washington Post**  
International/ Europe: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/world/europe/index.html>
- **The New York Times**  
International/ Europe: <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/europe/index.html>
- **CNN**  
Europe: <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/europe/archive/>

[\[back to top\]](#)

## Selected Austrian media with EU section

- **Der Standard**  
European Union: <http://derstandard.at/?url=/?ressort=EU>
- **Die Presse**  
Europe: <http://www.diepresse.com/taneu/eu.htm>
- **Wiener Zeitung**  
Europe: <http://www.wienerzeitung.at/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=3857&Alias=wzo>

[\[back to top\]](#)

## Additional sites

- **EUpolitix**: <http://www.eupolitix.com/EN/>
- **EurActiv** – EU Policy News and Links: <http://www.euractiv.com/>
- **Eubusiness** – European Business News Online: <http://www.eubusiness.com/>
- **EU Reporter**: <http://www.eureporter.co.uk/>
- **EUobserver**: <http://euobserver.com/>
- **EuropaWorld**: <http://www.europaworld.org/>

[\[back to top\]](#)